

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a wire segment from a metallic wire having a substantially rectangular ~~cross-section~~, cross-section and a front surface and a rear surface, the method ~~comprising steps of:~~ comprising:

forming a widened end portion at one end of the wire and a swollen portion on a ~~the~~ rear surface of the wire at a ~~bending chin portion, where~~ portion of the widened end portion ~~is to be bent toward a front surface of the wire, by~~ upsetting the wire in its a longitudinal direction; and

bending the wire at the widened end portion toward the front surface of the wire while tightly holding the widened end portion and the swollen portion in a die.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a wire segment as in claim 1, the method further including ~~a step of~~ heading an end of the widened end portion toward the bending portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a wire segment as in claim 1, wherein:

a thickness T of the swollen ~~end~~ portion is made to satisfy a formula:

$1.3 < T/t < 1.6$ , where t is a thickness of the metallic wire.

4. (Original) The method of manufacturing a wire segment as in claim 1, wherein:

the widened end portion is made in an asymmetrical shape with respect to an axis of the metallic wire by performing the upsetting step one or several times.

5. (Original) The method of manufacturing a wire segment as in claim 4, wherein:

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

the asymmetrically widened end portion is formed by performing the upsetting step several times, and then further bent to form a slant angle with respect to the axis of the metallic wire by performing the upsetting process one more time.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a wire segment as in claim 5, the method further ~~including a step of~~ comprising forming a tapered portion at one end of the metallic wire, the tapered portion having a tapered surface slanted in a direction corresponding to the slant angle, the tapered portion forming step being performed before the upsetting step.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a wire segment as in claim 2, wherein:

the heading ~~step~~ ~~includes a step of~~ forming a projected end at an end of the widened end portion.

8. (Original) The method of manufacturing a wire segment as in claim 5, wherein:

a projected end is formed at an end of the symmetrically widened end portion together with forming the slant angle.

9. (Original) A method of combining a plurality of the wire segments manufactured according to claim 1 to form a rotor winding of a rotational electric machine.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY